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FAR EAST

2. North Korean brigade commander misinformed as to UN order of battle: The commander of the North Korean 21st Brigade in western Korea, in informing his battalion commanders on 28 August of UN amphibious intentions, stated that the US 3rd Marine Division had arrived in Korea from Japan "to relieve its friendly forces." He continued that each battalion should "strengthen the services of coastal watch and guard." (CANOE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, SK-M-694, 28 Aug 52)

Comment: This message is a further example of the North Koreans' overriding fear of UN amphibious operations. The 3rd US Marine Division is currently under activation in the United States.

3. Chinese Communist and Soviet air warning systems may be integrated: A radio station heard contacting the Soviet air warning center at Vladivostok on 3 August had earlier in the day been noted using the Chinese Communist grid system. The station had a Soviet call sign, which suggests a direct tie-in of Soviet and Chinese Communist air warning efforts in the Far East. (CANOE AF Roundup 169, 2 Sept 52)

Comment: The Soviet and Chinese Communist air defense systems overlap geographically in Manchuria and Korea, but this is the first evidence that these systems are also integrated operationally. In early August it was established that the Chinese Communists are using a common plotting grid covering Manchuria, Korea, and South China.

4. North Korean unit practices offensive tactics: An unidentified and unlocated North Korean unit, possibly an artillery element of a major tactical force, on 28 August reported the scheduling of a training lecture on the timing for assuming the offensive and for supporting artillery movements. The message also stated that lectures were to be held on "battalion fire orders and . . . firing" because "corps will inspect." (CANOE 330th Comm Recon Co Korea, ALT-049, 28 Aug 52)

Comment: Of no immediate significance, such offensive training is normal in any army. The message is noteworthy insofar as it demonstrates some deviation from the strong defense-mindedness of the North Korean armed forces.

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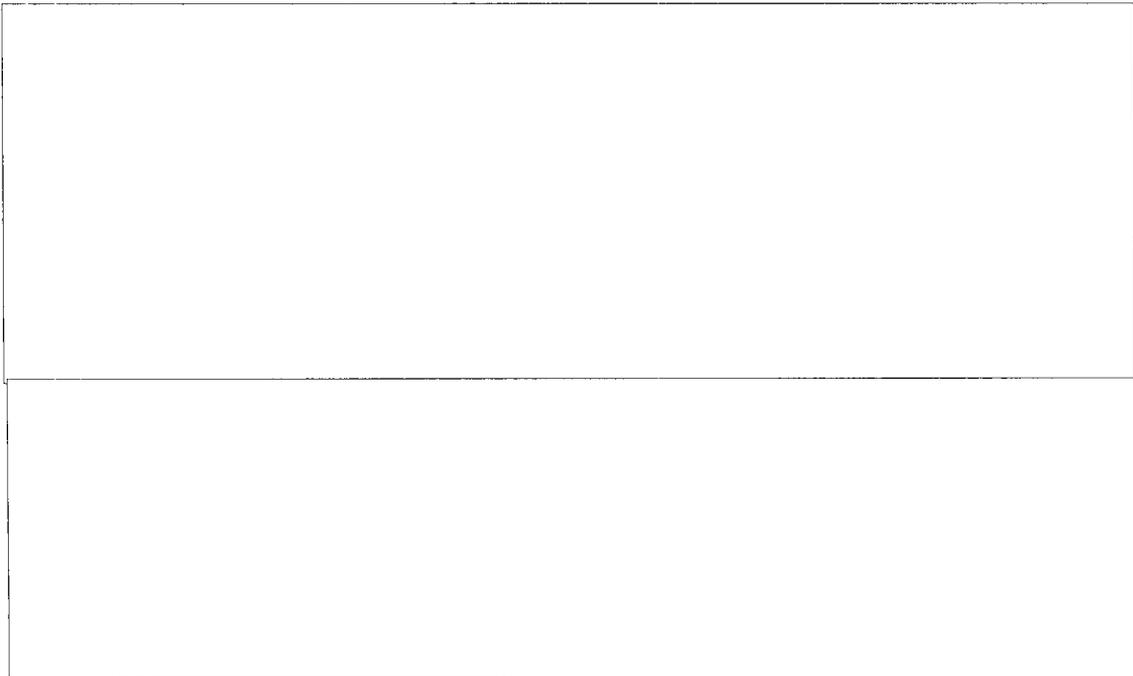
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5. Chinese armored unit supports a division of the 38th Army in western Korea: A series of messages, [redacted] indicates that an unidentified Chinese Communist armored company is supporting elements of the Chinese Communist 38th Army in west central Korea.

The earliest available message, of 26 July, mentioned a regiment of the 113th Division of the 38th Army in connection with "my company's tank area." More recently, on 30 August, a message carried on this net again mentioned the 113th Division and stated that "officers from a Northwest Military. . . Training Group coming to our company to inspect the battle line and to have practical experience of tank capabilities."

That this Chinese tank company has seen limited combat is indicated by a 26 August message from a higher unit asking for an ammunition expenditure report. The possibility of future action is also suggested by a reconnaissance report of 29 August in which road conditions leading into the 113th Division's rear are discussed. (CANOE [redacted] 1739, 26 July; ASAPAC Japan Spot 3844A, 26 Aug; Spot 3586A, 29 Aug; and Spot 3855Z, 2 Sept; 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, L/[redacted]/T298, 30 Aug 52)



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